

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /055 W

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O R 290930Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1420

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1168

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CASC (SAVVIDES, LARRY AKA SAVVIDES, FLOROS)

SUBJ: W/W LARRY SAVVIDES - DETENTION IN TURKISH CONTROLLED
AREA OF CYPRUS

1. SUMMARY: LARRY SAVVIDES WAS RELEASED BY TURKS AFTERNOON MARCH 28. RELEASE FOLLOWED RENEWED REPRESENTATIONS TO MINDEF OREK. DURING CONVERSATION, OREK SPECIFICALLY DENIED USG HAS RIGHT OF CONSULAR ACCESS IN TURKISH CONTROLLED AREA. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE EMBASSY ANKARA CLARIFY WITH GOT. END SUMMARY.

2. LARRY SAVVIDES WAS RELEASED BY TURKISH AUTHORITIES LATE MARCH 28. DESPITE EMBASSY REQUEST, HE WAS BROUGHT TO NICOSIA BY TURK CYPRIOT OFFICIALS AND CONSULAR OFFICER WAS NOT PERMITTED FACILITATE HIS DEPARTURE FROM OCCUPIED ZONE.

3. IN EFFORTS SECURE SAVVIDES' RELEASE, DCM AND CONSUL HAD CALLED ON MINDEF OSMAN OREK (CONCURRENTLY "VICE PRESIDENT FEDERATED TURKISH CYPRIOT STATE") MARCH 27 TO REITERATE EMBASSY'S DEMAND FOR SAVVIDES' RELEASE. DURING CONVERSATION OREK STATED THAT HE DID NOT AGREE THAT U.S. CONSUL HAS ANY RIGHT OF ACCESS TO U.S. CITIZENS. WITH REGARD TO SUCH RIGHT UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, OREK STATED, SOMEWHAT SARCASTICALLY, THAT ANY ARGUMENT THIS LINE SELF-DEFEATING IN THAT FEDERATED TURKISH STATE OF CYPRUS
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(FTSC) IS NOT CONSIDERED AN INDEPENDENT STATE BY USG AND THERE-

FORE FTSC IS NOT OBLIGED TO ACCEDE TO USG DEMAND FOR CONSULAR ACCESS. WHEN DCM POINTED OUT THAT CONSULAR OFFICERS OF AMEMBASSY NICOSIA ACCREDITED TO REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS, TERRITORY OF WHICH ENCOMPASSES WHOLE OF ISLAND, OREK REPLIED THAT TURKISH CYPRIOTS DO NOT RECOGNIZE LEGITIMACY OF MAKARIOS ADMINISTRATION OVER TURKISH CONTROLLED AREA AND THAT ANY DIPLOMATIC/CONSULAR ACCREDITATION TO "SO-CALLED REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS" THEREFORE DOES NOT EXIST WITHIN TERRITORY UNDER ADMINISTRATION OF FTSC.

4. OREK TOOK DISCUSSION STEP FURTHER BY STATING BLUNTLY THAT RIGHT OF CONSULAR ACCESS WOULD NOT BE RECOGNIZED IN TURKISH CYPRIOT AREA OF CYPRUS UNTIL RELATIONS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN U.S. AND AN INDEPENDENT TURKISH CYPRIOT STATE. UNTIL SUCH TIME, ACCORDING TO OREK, PERMISSION FOR CONSULS TO ENTER AREA OF FTSC IS GIVEN AS HUMANITARIAN AND GOOD WILL GESTURE ONLY. OREK ALSO CHIDED CONSUL FOR HAVING "EXCEEDED AUTHORITY" BY ATTEMPTING TO REMOVE SAVVIDES FROM YIALOUSA AND FOR "HAVING SERIOUSLY IRRITATED" TURKISH OFFICERS THERE.

5. DESPITE FACT THAT SAVVIDES WAS RELEASED SAFELY, CASE HAS DANGEROUS IMPLICATIONS FOR OTHER AMCITS IN TURKISH-OCCUPIED AREA. FIRST, EMBASSY WAS DENIED CONSULAR ACCESS TO INDIVIDUAL, WHO WAS IN CONSIDERABLE DANGER, FOR EXTENDED PERIOD. SECOND, SAVVIDES WAS NEVER ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH EMBASSY DIRECTLY; HAD HIS FAMILY NOT TELEGRAPHED FROM U.S., HIS PLIGHT WOULD HAVE GONE UNDISCOVERED UNTIL NEXT SCHEDULED VISIT NORTH. THIRD, AND MOST IMPORTANT, OREK'S ASSERTION THAT U.S. CONSULAR OFFICERS HAVE NO RIGHT OF ACCESS TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN TURKISH CONTROLLED AREA RUNS COUNTER TO ALL PREVIOUS ASSURANCES FROM GOT.

6. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS, SUGGEST EMBASSY ANKARA BE INSTRUCTED BRING OREK ARGUMENTATION TO ATTENTION APPROPRIATE LEVEL GOT FOREIGN MINISTRY IN EFFORT CLARIFY TURKISH POSITION ON CONSULAR ACCESS. WE ASSUME OREK'S PUGNACIOUS ASSERTIONS DO NOT ENJOY GOT SUPPORT AND CONCLUDE THAT HIS BLUSTERING WAS BASICALLY AN EFFORT TO OBFUSCATE THE "MINISTER OF DEFENSE'S" INABILITY TO CONTROL "HIS" ARMY. WOULD BE HELPFUL IF GOT COULD COMMUNICATE CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS ON CONSULAR PROCEDURES TO ITS OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY MILITARY, STATIONED HERE.

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